

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A message reception device comprising:

message reception means for receiving a message through a network;

5 message filter means for screening messages with a valid range including a valid range from said received messages;

positioning means for measuring its own current position;

10 message delivery assessment means for selecting the message with a valid range in which the measured current position is within the valid range; and

15 message delivery means for delivering the message with a valid range received by said message reception means or selected by said message delivery assessment means to a user.

2. A message reception device as set forth in claim 1, wherein further comprising

5 message storage means for storing the message with a valid range.

3. A message reception device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the screening of the messages with a valid range by said message filter means is targeted to the message satisfying a predetermined condition.

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4. A message reception device as set forth in claim 3, wherein the predetermined condition for screening the messages with a valid range by said message filter means is a sender of the message with a valid range.

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5. A message reception device as set forth in claim 2, wherein

said message storage means comprises clock means, sets a limit of validity to the message with a valid range, stores the a limit of validity, and deletes the message with a valid range whose limit of validity has been exceeded.

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6. A message reception device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the limit of validity of the message with a valid range is after a given time period from the time when the message with a valid range is stored.

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7. A message reception device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the limit of validity of the message with a valid range is the limit indicated in the limit of validity information added to the message with a valid range.

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8. A message reception device as set forth in claim 1, wherein assessment within the valid range by said

5 message delivery assessment means is performed whether
the measured own current position is within a
predetermined radius centered on a center position of
the valid range.

9. A message reception device as set forth in claim
2, wherein said message filter means delivers the
message by said message delivery means when receiving
the message, and stores the message with a valid range
5 specified by the user in said message storage means.

10. A message reception device as set forth in claim
1, wherein

5 said message delivery means assesses whether a
pointer information is included in the message with a
valid range, obtains the information pointed to by the
pointer information when the pointer information is
included, and delivers the obtained information to the
user.

11. A message reception device as set forth in claim
1, wherein

5 said message delivery means is a device separated
from a main body of the message reception device.

12. A message reception method comprising the steps
of:

receiving a message through a network;

screening messages with a valid range including a
5 valid range from the received messages and storing the
message with a valid range;

measuring its own current position;

selecting a message with a valid range for which
the measured current position is within the valid range
10 from the stored messages with a valid range; and

delivering the selected message with a valid
range to a user.

13. A message reception method as set forth in claim
12, wherein the screening of the messages with a valid
range is targeted to the message satisfying a
predetermined condition.

14. A message reception method as set forth in claim
13, wherein the predetermined condition for screening
the messages with a valid range is a sender of the
message with a valid range.

15. A message reception method as set forth in claim
12, wherein the message with a valid range is stored by
setting a limit of validity to the message with a valid
range, and the message with a valid range whose limit of
5 validity has been exceeded is deleted.

16. A message reception method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the limit of validity of the message with a valid range is after a given time period from the time when the message with a valid range is stored.

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17. A message reception method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the limit of validity of the message with a valid range is the limit indicated in the limit of validity information added to the message with a valid range.

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18. A message reception method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the assessment within the valid range is made whether the measured own current position is within a predetermined radius centered on a center position of the valid range.

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19. A message reception method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the message received from said network is delivered to a user when the message is received, and the message with a valid range specified by the user is stored.

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20. A message reception method as set forth in claim 12, wherein delivery of the message with a valid range to a user is performed by obtaining information pointed to by a pointer information when the pointer information

5 is included in the message with a valid range, and delivering the obtained information to the user.

21. A program for receiving messages which controls a computer to perform message reception processing, comprising the functions of:

5 a function of receiving a message through a network;

a function of screening messages with a valid range including a valid range from the received messages; and

10 a function of storing a screened message with a valid range in a message storage unit, and delivering a message which was not screened to a user.

22. A program for receiving messages which controls a computer to perform message reception processing, comprising the functions of:

a function of measuring its own current position;

5 a function of selecting a message with a valid range for which the measured current position is in its valid range from the messages with a valid range; and

a function of delivering the selected message with a valid range to a user.

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23. A program for receiving messages which controls a computer to perform message reception processing,

comprising the functions of:

5 a function of receiving a message through a network;

a function of screening messages with a valid range including a valid range from the received messages;

10 a function of storing the screened message with a valid range in a message storage unit, and delivering a message which was not screened to a user;

a function of measuring its own current position;

15 a function of selecting the stored message with a valid range for which the measured current position is in its valid range; and

a function of delivering the selected message with a valid range to a user.